









# Welcome to the California Child and Family Services Review Exit Conference







### Today we will be discussing:

- Information about the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) and the CFSR process
- Findings from the previous round of reviews
- The case sample and preliminary findings from the current round of reviews
- California's strengths and areas of concern
- Comparing California's results to the national standards
- Next steps



#### The CFSRs:

- Are a collaborative effort between Federal and State Governments
- Promote continuous quality improvement in child welfare systems nationally
- Evaluate State performance relative to the State Child and Family Services Plan
- Identify both the strengths and areas needing improvement in State child welfare programs



The CFSRs analyze strengths and areas needing improvement with respect to seven outcomes and seven systemic factors.

The *outcomes*, which concern safety, permanency, and well-being, include:

Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.



Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

Well-Being Outcome 1: Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.



The systemic factors include:

Statewide Information System

Case Review System

Quality Assurance System

Staff and Provider Training

Service Array

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention



- We completed the initial review of all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico between 2001-2004.
- All entered into Program Improvement Plans (PIPs) to correct some areas of their programs, and all had clearly identifiable strengths in their programs upon which to build improvement strategies.
- Although a few States are still completing their PIP implementation, the second round of reviews in those States that have completed their PIPs is now underway.

### **CFSR Process**



#### The CFSRs include:

- Statewide Assessment
- Case-level onsite reviews conducted by a team of Federal and State reviewers
- Interviews with key State and local stakeholders
- State data from AFCARS and NCANDS

### **Initial CFSR and PIP**



- The first CFSR in California was conducted in 2002.
- As a result, the State entered into a PIP to make improvements in seven outcomes and five systemic factors.

### **Current Review: Case Sample**



In the current CFSR, we reviewed 65 cases statewide, including:

- 26 in-home services cases
- 39 foster care cases

### **Current Review: Locations**



We reviewed cases and spoke to community stakeholders in three locations in the State, including:

- Los Angeles County
- Fresno County
- Santa Clara County

### **Key Legislative Actions to Improve Outcomes**



- •Youth (engagement, finding permanent connections, education)
- Codify ICWA into State Law
- High Level Collaboration

### **Foundations for Continued Improvement**



- •CWC, BRC, SIT
- QA Framework C-CFSR
- •Pockets of Excellence (Differential Response, Wraparound, Family to Family - TDMs, KSSP, Family Finding for Youth)
- •Partnerships (CDSS, CWDA, CPOC, Philanthropies, Universities, ICWA Workgroup)



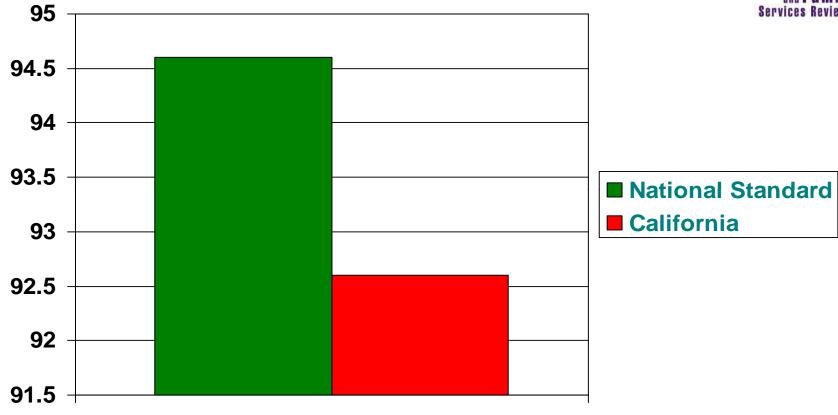
# Preliminary Findings: CFSR Data Indicators





### **Comparison to National Standards: Safety**

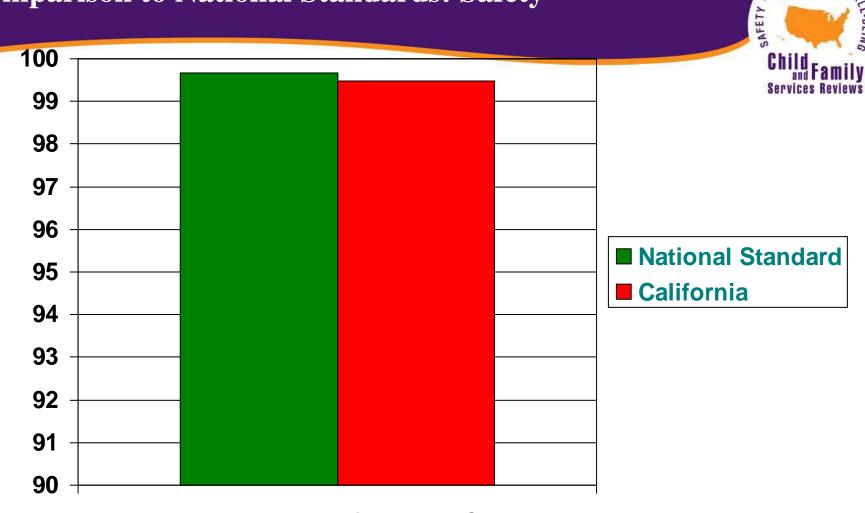




Of all children who were victims of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment allegation during the first 6 months of the reporting period, what percent were not victims of another substantiated or indicated maltreatment allegation during a 6-month period? National standard = 94.6%. California = 92.6%.

No Maltreatment Recurrence

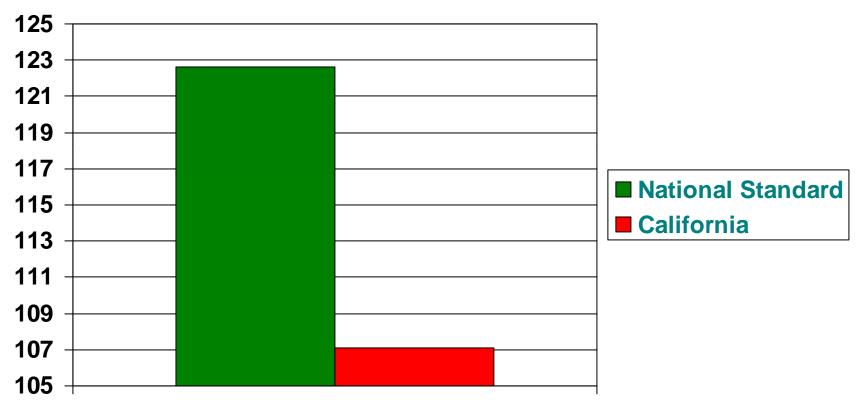
### **Comparison to National Standards: Safety**



No Maltreatment in Foster Care

Of all children in foster care during the reporting period, what percent were not victims of a substantiated or indicated maltreatment by a foster parent or facility staff member? National standard = 99.68%. California = 99.49%.

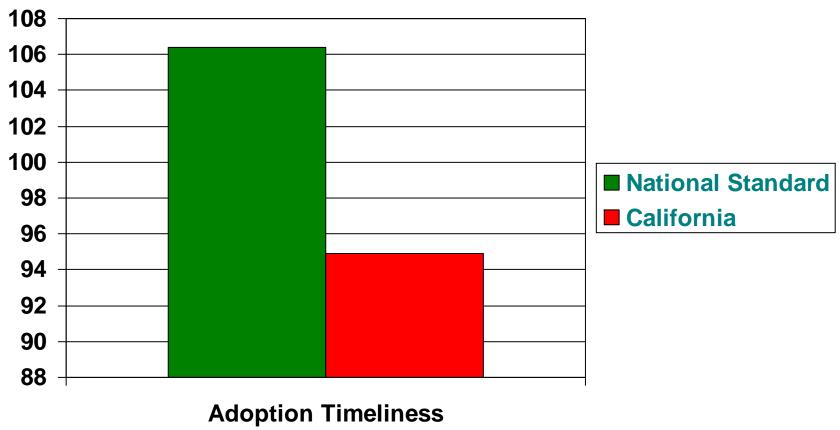




**Reunification Timeliness & Permanency** 

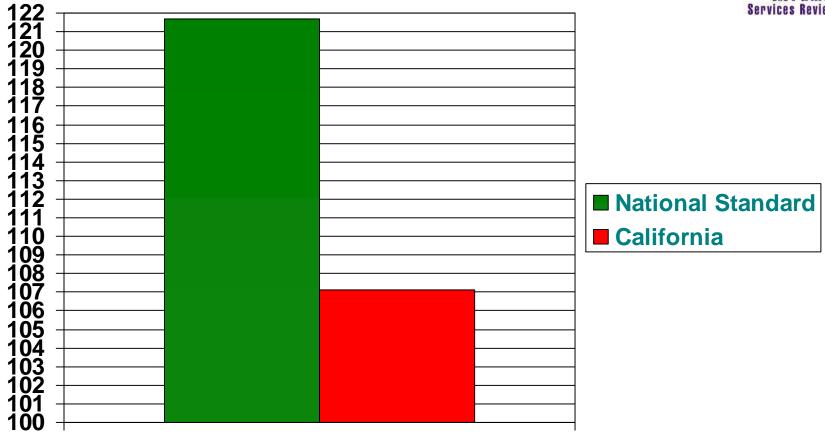
The national standard for the timeliness and permanency of reunification composite is 122.6. California = 107.1.





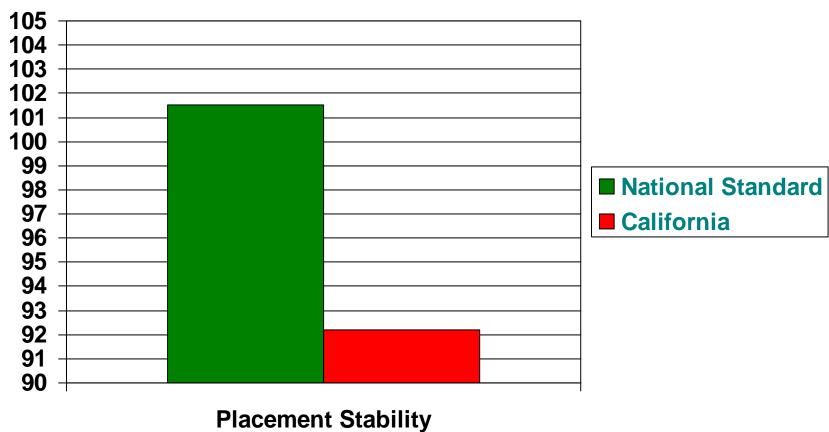
The national standard for the timeliness of adoptions composite is 106.4. California = 94.9.





**Permanency for Children** 





The national standard for placement stability is 101.5. California = 92.2.

### **Preliminary Findings**



The terms "strength" and "area needing improvement" at this preliminary stage do not necessarily equate to substantial conformity or nonconformity with an outcome or systemic factor. Final determinations are made at a later time in the process (more about this later).



# Preliminary Findings: Outcomes





### **Preliminary Findings – Stronger Outcomes**



The (preliminary) strongest performing outcome for California is:

Well-Being Outcome 2 Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

# Preliminary Findings – Stronger Outcomes (cont'd)



Safety Outcome 1 Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect

# Preliminary Findings – Stronger Outcomes (cont'd)



Well-Being Outcome 3 Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

Item 22 Physical health of the child performed stronger than Item 23 Mental/Behavioral health of the child.

# Preliminary Findings – Stronger Outcomes (cont'd)



Safety Outcome 2 Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

### **Preliminary Findings – Outcome Concerns**



The (preliminary) primary outcome area of concern for California is:

Permanency 1 Children have permanency and stability in their living situation

## Preliminary Findings – Outcome Concerns (cont'd)



Well-Being Outcome 1 Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs

### Items contributing to this concern include:

- ✓ Item 18 Child and family involvement in case planning
- ✓ Item 20 Caseworker visits with parents



### Preliminary Findings: Systemic Factors





# Preliminary Findings – Systemic Factors - General Strengths



The (preliminary) systemic factor general strengths for California are:

Agency Responsiveness to the Community

Staff Training

### **Preliminary Findings – Systemic Factors**



During the state level stakeholder interviews four crosscutting concerns were frequently raised in connection with several systemic factors:

- ✓ Workforce issues (worker turnover and caseload size)
- ✓ State budget concerns
- ✓ Challenges associated with bringing initiatives or pilot projects to scale
- ✓ Disproportionality issues (most notably in connection with African American and Native American children)

### **Preliminary Findings – Systemic Factors**



**Quality Assurance** 

Case Review System

Foster Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention

# Preliminary Findings – Systemic Factors – Concerns



Service Array



### **Next Steps**





### **Next Steps**



The Final Report for California will be issued after the onsite review with final determinations of substantial conformity.

- The Children's Bureau Regional Office will provide a courtesy copy in advance to the State to review for accuracy.
- The State requests technical assistance from National Resource Centers (NRCs) as needed.

### Next Steps (cont'd)



- State begins/continues work on the PIP, including stakeholders in the process.
- State plans with Regional Office for training on PIP development through the NRC on Organizational Improvement.
- Final PIP is due to the Regional Office 90 days from receipt of Final Report. Due dates for drafts will be negotiated.

### Next Steps (cont'd)



Important: The State need not wait for the Final Report to begin developing the PIP!

### Next Steps (cont'd)



The Children's Bureau offers Training and Technical Assistance (T/TA) through:

- TA for State Legislators through JBS International, Inc., and the National Conference of State Legislatures
- The Children's Bureau-funded NRCs
- The Child Welfare Information Gateway (<u>www.childwelfare.gov/</u>) for information and resources

### **National Resource Centers**



NRC for Organizational Improvement

NRC for Child Protective Services

NRC on Legal and Judicial Issues

NRC for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning

NRC for Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Programs

NRC for Child Welfare Data and Technology

NRC for Adoption

NRC for Youth Development

NRC for Abandoned Infants Assistance Resource Center

The Collaboration to AdoptUSKids

NRC on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare



### THANK YOU!



